

directed serves upon the participant requesting the admission a written answer or files an objection pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. A participant who answers a request for admission shall file a copy of the answer with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon other participants who request them.

(c) *Objections.* In the interest of expedition, the bases for objection shall be clearly and fully stated. If objection is made to part of an item, the part shall be specified. A participant claiming privilege shall identify the specific evidentiary privilege asserted and state the reasons for its applicability. A participant claiming undue burden shall state with particularity the effort which would be required to answer the request, providing estimates of cost and work hours required to the extent possible. Objections are to be signed by the attorney making them. The party objecting to requests for admissions shall serve the objections on the party requesting admissions, upon the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and upon the Postal Service, within 10 days of the request. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(d) *Orders.* If the Commission or presiding officer determines that an answer does not comply with the requirements of this rule, it may order either that the matter is admitted or that an amended answer be served, or may determine that final disposition of the request be made at a pretrial conference or at a designated time prior to the hearing. Upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, the Commission or the presiding officer may compel answers to a request for admissions to which an objection has been raised if the objection is found not to be valid. Such compelled answers shall be served on the party who moved to compel the answers within 10 days of the date of the order compelling production or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. Copies of the answers shall be filed upon the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and served upon other participants who request them.

[45 FR 65579, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12116, Mar. 6, 1995]

#### **§ 3001.28 Failure to comply with orders for discovery.**

If a participant or an officer or agent of a participant fails to obey an order of the Commission or the presiding officer to provide or permit discovery, pursuant to §§ 3001.25 to 3001.27, the Commission or the presiding officer may make such orders in regard to the failure as are just, and among others, may direct that the matters regarding which the order was made or any other designated facts shall be taken to be established for the purposes of the proceeding in accordance with the claim of the participants obtaining the order, or prohibit the disobedient participant from introducing designated matters in evidence, or strike the evidence, complaint or pleadings or parts thereof.

#### **§ 3001.29 Settlement conferences.**

Any participant in a proceeding may submit offers of settlement or proposals of adjustment at any time and may request a conference between the participants to consider such offers or proposals. The Commission or the presiding officer shall afford the participants appropriate opportunity prior to or during the hearing for conferences for the purpose of considering such offers or proposals as time, the nature of the proceeding, and the public interest permit. Unaccepted offers of settlement or adjustment and proposed stipulations not agreed to shall be privileged and shall not be admissible in evidence against any participant claiming such privilege.

#### **§ 3001.30 Hearings.**

(a) *How initiated.* Hearings for the purpose of taking evidence shall be initiated by the issuance of a notice by the Commission as provided in § 3001.19.

(b) *Presiding officer.* All hearings shall be held before the Commission sitting en banc, or a duly designated presiding officer.

(c) *Entering of appearances.* The Commission or the presiding officer before whom the hearing is held will cause to be entered on the record all appearances together with a notation showing in whose behalf each such appearance has been made.

(d) *Order of procedure.* In public hearings before the Commission, the Postal